

IOWA WESTERN

A Magazine for Alumni & Friends



in this issue

Spring 2015

Sky's the Limit with McLean, '11 :: Whitson is Iowa Western Original :: The Port at Iowa Western



Dear alumni and friends,

Serving as president of the premier community college in the region comes with its share of proud moments. Commencement is one of those times when I reflect on the great things we do as an institution to help students of all ages achieve their dreams of earning a college education.

As I read the wonderful stories in our alumni magazine, I am reminded once again of the quality individuals who have walked across that stage at graduation and have moved on to enjoy prosperous lives in our community. Equally impressive are the stories of those community leaders who have dedicated their time and resources to make Iowa Western a leader in providing quality education programs for thousands of deserving students. One such loyal booster is Tom Whitson, who is featured in this edition.

As you will read on page 10, Tom made his mark in Council Bluffs as a longtime bank president and community leader, but he has always maintained a special bond with the college. Through his efforts in making the annual Black Tie Harvest for Scholarships a signature event to his work on our foundation board, Tom has helped the college grow and prosper by offering invaluable financial insight. He has never lost sight of the important role this college has in adding to the economic and educational vitality of this city, and he has convinced many others to jump on the Reiver bandwagon!

We hope you enjoy this article about an amazing community leader and the many other stories that tout the successes of our many proud alumni!

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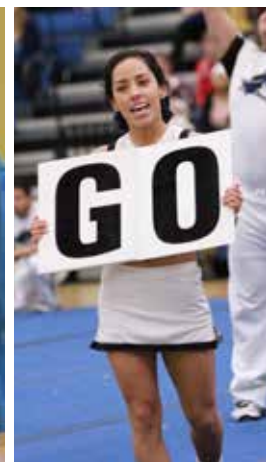
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Dr. Kinney with three Presidential Scholars at a breakfast prior to the December commencement ceremony; a cheerleader celebrates a Reiver home basketball win.



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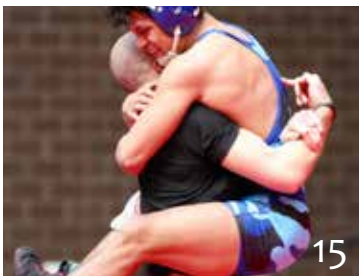
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Iowa Western Alumni Magazine

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Kenealy, pictured above with one of her patients, Joyce Kock, loves her job as a physical therapist at CHI Health Mercy Hospital. Photographs provided by Jodi Hoatson, CHI Health.

STILL HITTING

Julia Kenealy doesn't have a black belt. But she's still pounding hits, these days for Judo Chop.

That's an adult volleyball team. And they mean business, competing weekly at local clubs and once to twice a month at USA Volleyball tournaments. She also plays on a weekly league at Omaha Sports Club throughout the year and in a summer sand volleyball league at the Railway in Council Bluffs. Like Kenealy, many who play with and against her once were elite college athletes.

And none of them likes to lose.

"We all have that competitive drive," Kenealy says. "That's the best way to do it."

Kenealy was plenty competitive during her days at Iowa Western. As a freshman she helped lead the Reivers to the 2006 NJCAA Division I National Championship. By the end of her sophomore year she had set school records for hitting percentage in a season (.488) and career blocks (412). Her 524 kills and 187 blocks as a sophomore helped her earn second-team All-America honors.

Today she's a physical therapist at CHI Health Mercy

Hospital in Council Bluffs. She also does stints at Midlands Nursing Home and Northcrest Living Center.

Volleyball is what she's always done. But physical therapy is what she's always wanted to do, ever since attending Missouri Valley High School.

"Which is kind of amazing I'm still in that," she says. "I love Mercy. I love the people I work with, and I love that I can get all my experience there, from ortho to critical care."

Her love for volleyball and physical therapy was initiated by her stepmother, Susie Kenealy, who would bring Julia to practices when she was in grade school. She also took Julia to her PT appointments.

Now she's combined the two loves.

When patients first meet Kenealy, her 6-foot-3 frame inevitably prompts questions of what sport she played. The Missouri Valley native who now lives in Council Bluffs has plenty to tell.

She came to Iowa Western at the invitation of then-Coach Terry Gamble following a standout career at Missouri Valley High in basketball and volleyball. She was part of an Iowa Western jug-



Clockwise from top: Iowa Western President Dr. Dan Kinney congratulates Kenealy after the 2006 National Championship win; Julia, her father Mike Kenealy and grandparents Joann and Leo Kenealy; Kenealy is pictured with fellow volleyball alumni at a 2012 reunion game; former teammates (left to right) Steph Svoboda, Juliana Paz, Alicia Williams, Kenealy and Gabby Pfannenstiel; Kenealy in action during her time at Iowa Western.

gernaut that went undefeated at home, finished ranked third at the end of the regular season, then brought home the national title — still the college's only championship in volleyball.

The national championship team was just as remarkable off the court, Kenealy says.

"We were pretty much all best friends. We all lived on the same floor and same wing in the dorms. It's kind of weird for girls to get along that well. I know for a fact we were not the most physical team, but we were definitely the closest team."

It was smart, too, being named National Academic Team of the Year.

The Reivers finished seventh at the national tourney the following year with Kenealy earning second-team NJCAA All-American honors. Kenealy was team captain and received the National Alliance of Two-Year College Athletic Administrators Scholar Athlete Award.


She left midway through her sophomore year but already had her associate of arts degree thanks to classes she took for college credit while at Missouri Valley High. She was one of four Reivers that year to earn Division I scholarships, Kenealy to Tulsa.

Tulsa had won its conference championship the two years prior to Kenealy's arrival and the two years after she played there. The Golden Hurricane was without a crown during Kenealy's stay. Through no fault of hers, though. Again voted a team captain, she played in 66 matches, recording 381 kills, 184 digs and 258 blocks. She was voted second-team All-Conference USA as a senior and graduated magna cum Laude in 2010.

Three years later Kenealy achieved her professional dream, earning her doctorate of physical therapy from the University of Nebraska Medical Center in Omaha.

The 26-year-old stays close to Iowa Western, visiting campus regularly. Usually that's to practice with current Reiver volleyballers. Her former Reiver pal, Alicia (Runge) Williams, now is head coach. Kenealy also serves on the Physical Therapist Assistant Advisory Board, Alumni Committee and Black Tie Committee.

No black belt. But a black tie suits her just fine.

"Iowa Western has grown since I've been there," Kenealy says. "I know it was a great stepping stone for me. A great stepping stone." 

Committed to Aviation

Graduate gives back to aircraft maintenance technology program

By Kara Schweiss



John McLean, '11, is very involved in the aviation program at Iowa Western. He and his wife award two scholarships to aviation students each year and in 2014, McLean spoke to more than 300 students at spring commencement (photograph on page 7).

You'll find a significant percentage of non-traditional students at Iowa Western Community College, but John McLean Jr. was one-of-a-kind when he earned his associate of applied science degree in aircraft maintenance technology between 2010 and 2012. For one thing, he already had a master's degree under his belt. He had achieved the rank of colonel before retiring from a distinguished, 30-plus-year Air Force career. Then there's the fact he had already celebrated his 60th birthday.

"I'm probably — if not the oldest — one of the very oldest students they ever had in the program, and having said that, I was No. 1 in the class when it came time to graduate," he says. "I was pretty proud of that."

McLean says the aircraft maintenance technology program, which graduated around 50 percent of the group that started, was a challenge he relished.

"I enjoyed the entire time I was there," he says. "Both the instructors that I had — Eldon Young was my first-year instructor and Gene Jedlicka was my second-year instructor — at the aviation department were excellent."

"The first semester in the aircraft maintenance program is all academics. You don't bend a wrench on any airplanes. You start off from aviation ground operations to navigation and then you go on to physics and then you go on to electrics. And, of course, there's mathematics, so if you haven't had any experience in mathematics in high school for the young kids, or if you haven't touched a math book in years if you're one of the older students, it can be a very eye-opening experience."

His inclination for academics didn't change over 40 years, but technology has certainly evolved, McLean says. "My time at Iowa Western was the first time I had ever taken an online course, because all of my classes were brick-and-mortar when I went through school. When I was in flight school we didn't even have a hand calculator." (His first calculator, a gift from his wife, had four basic functions and cost more than \$100 in the 1970s).

Learning aircraft maintenance, he says, was a long time coming.

“When I started at Iowa Western in 2010, it had been 40 years since I’d wanted to do this,” he says. But his Air Force aspirations sent him along a different path.

“Would I have done anything different? No I wouldn’t have,” he says. “I like the way life has turned out and the way my career has turned out, because my first passion was flying ... I had almost 34 years by the time I retired, and I wouldn’t have done any differently. I became an Air Force pilot and flew some great airplanes and was able to instruct young students.

My first thought in going to school at the Academy of Aeronautics (in his 20s) is that a maintenance background would assist me. But I realized that by doing that, I would have jeopardized going to flight school and getting all those other things accomplished before I was too old.”

Today, McLean is an especially well-rounded aviation consultant.

“I started a company (AeroLogix LLC) and I focus on consulting and construction — consulting on aviation and aircraft maintenance, as well as flight instruction,” he says. “I’m consulting on the new STRATCOM Command and Control Facility, the new building they’re working on out at Offutt. It’s a wonderful project and a significant addition to our nation’s defense. It’s exciting to be there and because of my many years in the Air Force — I had tours at the Pentagon and had been all around the country and different staffs, and my background in B-52s — I was asked if I wanted to come on board and consult on the construction of this building, so that’s what I’ve done.”

In February, McLean and his wife, Pat, presented two \$500 scholarships for a second year. The family centered couple, who have two adult daughters and three grandchildren, wanted to honor their respective fathers and help two committed aviation students defray some of the costs of the aircraft maintenance program’s required certifications and tests.

“My dad had started off in aviation maintenance; he was in World War II (Navy), stationed in the Philippines as an aircraft mechanic,” McLean says. “My father-in-law (Army Air Corps) was a flight engineer on a B-29 during World War II and had a lot of maintenance experience. The Staff Sergeant Frank M. Maccarello Memorial Scholarship is presented to a




military veteran and the Petty Officer First Class John N. McLean Sr. Memorial Scholarship is presented to a recent high school graduate.

“(The recipients) have to be committed to aviation in some way,” McLean says. “They’re committed and determined and passionate.”

McLean says he and his wife get “more benefit out of the scholarships than the money we give away” and that “I’m just paying it forward as best I can.” He encourages other alumni to consider helping support the next generation of students.

“Take a look at your experience at Iowa Western,” he says. “Take a look at the positive aspects and what it’s done in your life, for your family, to where you are currently. If there are fond memories of what you did in school, maybe consider developing a scholarship yourself. Or maybe just contribute something to a fund or to the school. If some of the alumni are detached from their graduation date, it might be a good opportunity to go back and visit the campus, because they’ve done some marvelous things over the last four years in developing housing for students and they’re getting ready to open their new technology building. Of course the aviation program facility is over 10 years old, but it’s absolutely gorgeous out at the CB airport.”

And as other alumni know, he says, education is a key to success.

“Nothing is impossible for someone who is committed and has a passion for what they are doing, regardless of career. What’s wonderful about this country is that the sky’s the limit.” 



Years before she became a successful small-business owner and highly sought-after caterer in southwest Iowa and eastern Nebraska, Katy Marvel was fired from her first job.

Fortunately for her, it was from her mom and dad's grocery store in Farragut, Iowa, a place she'd grown up working since she could add and subtract.

On this particular day, just a couple of weeks before Christmas during her sophomore year of high school, she and her dad had a vocal disagreement in the meat department — both saying things they would later regret.

She was rehired. But the experience proved a valuable lesson in humility and compromise that Marvel says she and her dad have benefitted from over the years.

"We're both very passionate people, so it was inevitable that we would have a few arguments, and that one was a doozy," Marvel says. "I gave him the car keys and stormed out. I walked home, and when I walked in the door, my mom already knew what had happened. We cooled off, and I was back at work in a couple of days."

Now that she runs her own business — Katy's Catering — Marvel says she relies upon her dad and mom as sounding boards.

Though being a business owner is in her blood, it wasn't her first career choice.

After graduating high school in 1998, Marvel, a longtime Hawkeye fan, planned to attend the University of Iowa, most likely to study business.

But after visiting the campus in Iowa City, she and her family decided she wasn't ready for a big school.

But she knew she would feel comfortable at

Marvel-ous Katy

by Mike Watkins

Iowa Western.

"We all agreed a school the size of Iowa would have been too much for me. It was just too big, especially with me coming from a very small school in small-town Iowa," Marvel says. "I visited Iowa Western, which was just starting to make its transition from a commuter college to more of a college campus feel, and it fit. I continued to live at home and drive in from Tabor (her family moved to Tabor before her senior year of high school) for class.

"I remember my first class at Iowa Western. I walked in with the guys from the basketball team, and I was the smallest person in the room. I was a bit overwhelmed, coming from a community with very little diversity, but after a couple of days, I knew Iowa Western was for me."

Marvel earned her AA degree in general studies in 2000 then transferred to Peru State College, where she graduated in 2002 with her BS in business. She attended Peru State on a full-ride scholarship she earned through her academic honors as a member of Phi Theta Kappa at Iowa Western.

When it came time to look for a job, Marvel, who married shortly after graduation in 2002, didn't really know what she wanted to do. Colleen Geiger, a trustee at Iowa Western, suggested she look at openings at IWCC, so she applied for the student activities coordinator position and was quickly hired.

"The student activities coordinator position seemed a good fit for me," Marvel says. "I like being with people, and I like helping students, so it was win-win."

For the next three years, Marvel coordinated Iowa Western's student activities and played a role in the bond issue to renovate Dodge Hall getting passed. She also helped secure funding to start the veterinary tech and turf management programs at her alma mater.

She says her time at Iowa Western was fantastic, but when she became pregnant with her first child in 2005, she decided the nights and weekends would be too stressful on her and her family.

She went to work for the Department of Human Services in Glenwood, where she lives, for the next five years before she was laid off when smaller state offices were closed.

That gave Marvel the opening and opportunity to follow a dream she'd had since she made cookies and cupcakes and brought them to her classmates in the third and fourth grade.

She secured a few catering jobs right away – making food in her own kitchen. When the business showed promise for growth, her "very handy" husband, Jeremy, built her a full-service kitchen just 15 feet behind her home.

Several of the kitchen appliances — including the refrigerator, ovens and even the sink — were purchased from Iowa



Western when the contents of the cafeteria kitchen were sold when the new student center opened a few years ago.

"I was laid off at the end of June 2010, and I had my first catering job in July," she says. "I had no idea at the time that it would grow into what it is today. Now that the kids (Cooper and Ella) are older, they are able to help me, and I've grown enough to hire a few part-time helpers. Mom and dad and my husband help out when I need them."

Although she's been gone from Iowa Western as a student for 13 years and as an employee for nearly a decade, Marvel continues to support the organization, most notably by contributing to Mills County and Page/Fremont scholarship golf scrambles.

As for Katy's Catering, Marvel says business continues to grow. She doesn't advertise, so most of her business is repeat or comes from word-of-mouth. She also gains contacts via Facebook and her website, www.katymarvelcatering.com.

Wherever business originates, she is excited about opportunities to grow and make more connections within the community.

"What better compliment is there than to have someone who ate your food at an event like it so much that they want you to cater their wedding or reunion or whatever?" Marvel says. "I feel so fortunate to be able to do this, something I really love. And it's something I get to involve my entire family in."

"It's my calling. Sometimes, God just tells you this is it — this is what you're supposed to be doing. I work more hours now than I ever have, but I love it. That makes a huge difference. This doesn't feel like work at all." ❧

Tom Whitson: the Foundation's *foundation*

To get a proper sense of the longevity of Tom Whitson's influence on Iowa Western Community College, consider this: He was on campus before it was a campus.

Nearly half a century later he's still around, the last 25 years as president of the Iowa Western Community College Foundation.

As one might expect, he's seen a few changes.

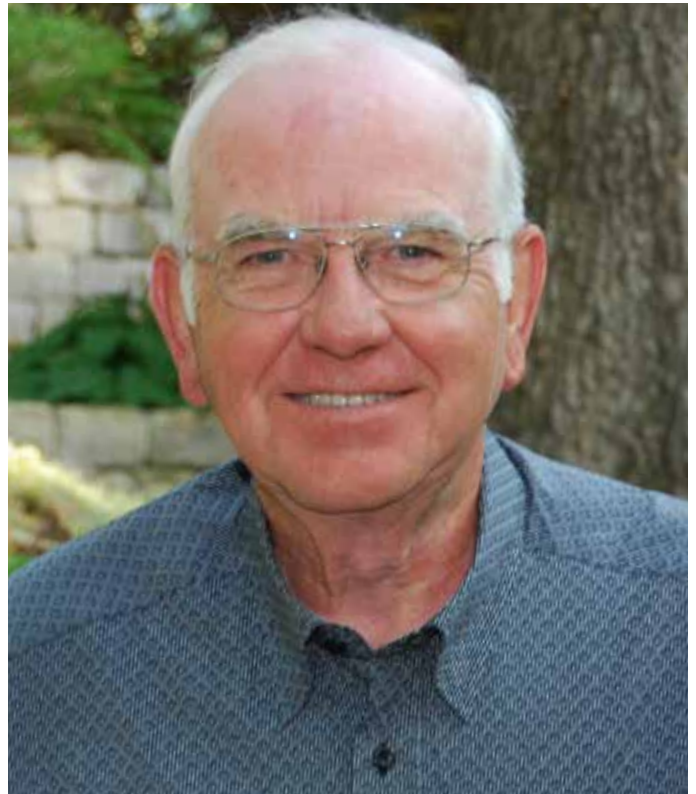
"The physical campus has gone from a number of metal buildings — which were constructed based on cost and need and space and a need to get it done quickly — to what we see out there today," Whitson says. "Now we have a campus that has all those dormitories that are full and now we're going to add some more. The new library is an electronic library. It doesn't have any books. That is kind of cutting-edge and interesting. The new student union is a really impressive place and we're building a new building to house technology programs and engineering programs."

None of that existed back in the late 1960s when the State of Iowa started looking for a site to place a new community college. Whitson remembers walking "those old hills out there where campus is" with founding Iowa Western President Robert Looft. As Whitson recalls, he was there as a member of the chamber of commerce.

"They had a group out there to look at that after they had purchased the land," he says. "Iowa Western had some real humble beginnings. Those people were visionaries because they could see all that. I never in my wildest dreams dreamed we would have what we have out there today. That is a real source of pride for our community and, as I've said, it has done a lot of good for a lot of people."

Iowa Roots

The Whitson family is used to growing things. Whitson's grandfather came to Iowa from Ohio in 1867 and farmed a spread in Hardin Township southeast of McClelland. Whitson's father farmed in York Township south of



Minden. Whitson was raised on and worked that farm before graduating from Minden High School in 1959 — the school's last year before it closed and merged with other schools to form Tri-Center High School in nearby Neola.

Whitson went on to earn a BS from Iowa State University in 1963. That same year he went to work for Council Bluffs Savings Bank, eventually becoming chairman, president and CEO before leaving in 1993 for People's National Bank (now American National Bank), where he held the same titles. Along the way he earned an MBA from Creighton University in Omaha (1974) and a diploma from the Graduate School of Banking in Madison, Wisc. (1978). He was married to his first wife, Kathy, for 44 years before she passed away in 2008 after

a long battle with inoperable lung cancer. The couple had three children — Dan, Sara and Paul. Tom remarried three years ago to Janet.

He retired from banking in 2005 but maintains an office at the bank. “Retirement was never one of my goals,” he says, “but I did think probably it was time to move on and give the next guy his chance, too.”

He has remained involved in many of the community organizations he served while employed. The long list includes the Iowa Partnership of Economic Progress, Council Bluffs Public Library Foundation, Iowa Conference of the United Methodist Church, Jennie Edmundson Hospital, Council Bluffs Senior Center, Council Bluffs Area Chamber of Commerce, Underwood Iowa School Board of Education and others. Including Iowa Western, of course.

With degrees from Iowa State and Creighton, why the longtime association with Iowa Western? For one, it’s good business.

“Iowa Western does wonderful things for our community and for Southwest Iowa, as do all the community colleges in Iowa,”

Whitson says. “Iowa Western provides the people in our community an opportunity to improve their lives, their education, their jobs, and I think that’s a great thing. And Iowa Western is a real economic development force in southwest Iowa. They employ a lot of people, they purchase a lot of goods and services. Things like that, the community needs to support.”

Going to work — for Iowa Western

Whitson started that support by joining the foundation in 1990. The college had been around for just 23 years. Raising money took some doing.

“It was a new concept and they were still not kind of fully accepting or maybe not fully having the vision of what the founding fathers had,” he says.

In 1994 Whitson served on a committee that hired current Iowa Western President Dr. Dan Kinney. The two shared a bond — the military. Whitson had a seven-year stint with the Iowa Army National Guard, becoming a 2nd Lieutenant by the time he left in 1970. Kinney was with the U.S. Army National Guard before retiring in 2001 as a colonel.

They made an immediate connection — much to Kinney’s benefit. After moving to Council Bluffs the Iowa Western president headed to the courthouse to register his cars in Iowa. But he had to prove



From left: John Cool, Alumni Board president; Doug Goodman, 2012 Outstanding Alumnus; Dr. Dan Kinney, Iowa Western president; and Tom Whitson pictured at Goodman’s alumni reception.

“Iowa Western provides the people in our community an *opportunity* to improve their lives, their education, their jobs, and **I think that’s a great thing.**”

Tom Whitson

residence, either with rent receipts or proof of property taxes paid on a home. He had neither of those yet — and his cars weren’t getting registered. Kinney visited Whitson and asked for help. Whitson placed a call to the county clerk, gave Kinney a note to show him, and Kinney got his cars registered. “The joke was I had to get a letter from my dad,” Kinney says.

As Kinney’s presidency advanced, the foundation grew. Today it has assets approaching \$11 million and has been integral to Iowa Western’s growth, financing capitol projects such as a building for the Shenandoah campus and providing scholarships.

Among the foundation’s achievements Whitson takes most pride in is the capital campaign that helped build the Arts Center. However, scholarships are the foundation’s biggest challenge, he says. “Helping supporters of the foundation to understand the need for scholarships as opposed to brick and mortar,” he says. “I think that is always a challenge. And the need to continue the growth of the foundation is going to be important. Iowa Western is going to continue to grow in number of students. That means the need for scholarships continues to grow also.”

The asks in the community are easier now than 25 years ago when



Whitson and wife, Janet, at the 2014 Black Tie Harvest for Scholarships, the college's largest fundraiser. Whitson was the first Investment in Excellence Award Winner in 1999, when the fundraiser began. Since then, the event has raised more than \$1.5 million for scholarships.

he took over leadership of the foundation. "I don't think anymore you have to really explain the mission of Iowa Western and you don't have to really explain its track record," he says. "I was involved a few years ago when the nursing program was being implemented in Iowa Western and upgraded. We made some calls and it was a matter of explaining ... the need for nurses in Southwest Iowa and the community. But we didn't have to explain Iowa Western or its quality of education, and so those funds were raised."

Support is coming from a wider base, too, extending beyond Council Bluffs. Kinney saw that during a major gifts campaign.

"Tom introduced me to lots of people and helped make the asks in that fundraising and actually helped us create some new friends for Iowa Western Community College that have been very supportive since that time," Kinney says. "He certainly helped us increase connections here in Council Bluffs, but he really helped open doors in some of the surrounding communities for us. We just had not had any contact with people in some of those communities and he has made a huge difference."


The 74-year-old Whitson, who is elected president of the foundation on a yearly basis, says he'd step down from his post if he ever felt he couldn't contribute. That said, "I am sure there will come a time when probably

that would be a good thing to do. We have a lot of capable people on the board. People of influence."

Before that, he says, he'd like to get cash out of the 110 acres the foundation owns east of the college and adjacent to the interstate. "I would like to see that piece of ground developed and sold and the money put into the foundation so that we could be using those to generate revenue for scholarships."

There's much more to the campus than when Whitson first walked the grass-covered, rolling hills with Iowa Western's first president. Back then there were just two vocational/technical programs. Now, Iowa Western's 6,309 students have access to more than 100 academic programs that culminate in certificates, diplomas and degrees.

Whitson has seen it all. Kinney figures there are fewer than a dozen individuals around with the kind of institutional memory and influence of the longtime banker. The Iowa Western president mentions a question regarding how much longer Whitson will be foundation president.

"We're not going to let anybody take his spot," Kinney says. "We're not going to let it happen. He continues to ... reach a lot of new generations, younger generations. So his influence will have a lasting effect for a long time." 

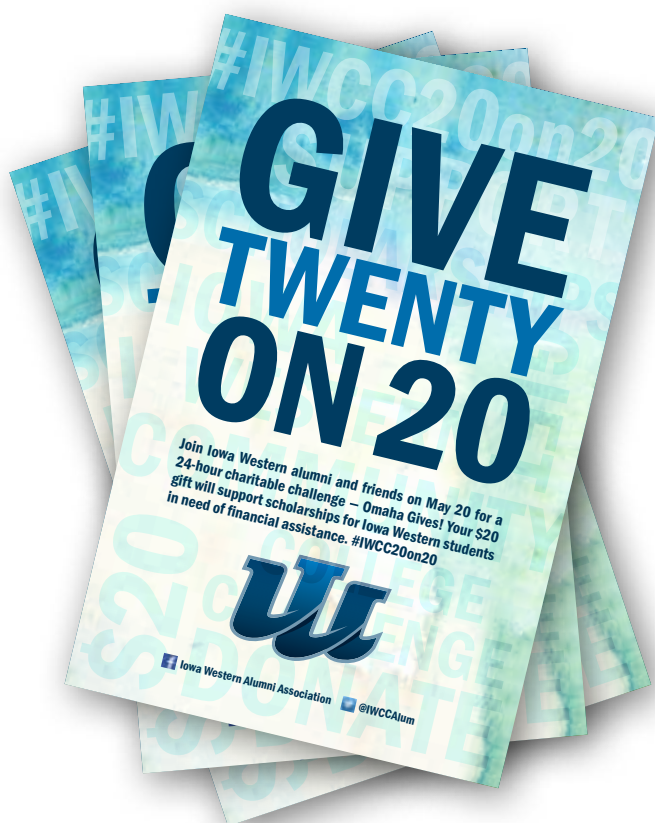


DEMAND INTO OPPORTUNITY

Robotics and automated systems have advanced from futuristic science fiction to become today's manufacturing reality. As the demand for sophisticated automation systems using robotics increases, so does the demand for highly trained, skilled technicians to assemble, install, program and maintain them.

Iowa Western is transforming demand into opportunity. Students interested in robotics and engineering will soon be taking classes in a new, \$13.5 million Engineering Technology Building on the Council Bluffs campus. With a grand opening in July, the facility will house specialized programs in applied robotics, robot and controller maintenance, electronics, circuits, fluid power, Computer Aided Design/Drafting (CAD) and programming.





#IWCC20on20

Mark your calendars for May 20. Iowa Western is proud to be participating in Omaha Gives! – a 24-hour charitable challenge organized by the Omaha Community Foundation. The online giving holiday will take place May 20 from midnight to midnight and Iowa Western needs your help. With more than 75 percent of Iowa Western’s students qualifying for federal financial aid, charitable support is critical to keeping educational costs affordable. Funds raised through this event will be dedicated to student scholarships. Your support is important in helping Iowa Western students achieve their educational goals.

How you can help Iowa Western during Omaha Gives!:

- Donate to us on May 20;
- Spread the word. Tell your friends that you will be donating to Iowa Western during Omaha Gives! and that you need their help;
- Post about Omaha Gives! on your social media pages. Let friends and followers know how they can give and how their donations can help students at Iowa Western.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Iowa Western. We can’t wait to see the Omaha/Council Bluffs communities band together to give.

Fall Review



Top: Iowa Western head wrestling coach Josh Watts hugs freshman wrestler Oscar Ramirez at the NJCAA National Championships in Des Moines. Bottom: Iowa Western guard Jasmine Trimboli dribbles past a Trinity Valley (Texas) opponent. Trinity Valley won the double-overtime contest to advance.

REIVER ATHLETICS

Iowa Western athletes are doing their best to put the Reivers in contention for another Learfield Cup in 2014-15. The award is given annually to the top junior college program in the country, and Iowa Western is racking up the points to secure another coveted trophy.

MEN'S BASKETBALL HAS ANOTHER WINNING SEASON

Iowa Western, under veteran head coach Jim Morris, closed the regular season with six straight wins before the Reivers fell to rival Northeast, Neb., in the Region XI semifinals 89-75. Morris has guided the Reivers to 20-win seasons 13 out of the last 14 basketball campaigns. The single-season blocks mark was shattered in 2014 by freshman Thik Bol and sophomore Deshawn Munson left his name in the record books with a 42-point performance in an important conference win over Marshalltown. Coach Morris also celebrated his 500th career win early in the year.

REIVERS EARN TRIP TO NATIONALS

Iowa Western's women's basketball team earned a thrilling 75-74 overtime victory over Mineral Area, Mo., in the district championship to punch its ticket to Salina, Kansas, for the NJCAA Championships. Coach Jim Turgeon guided the Reivers to a school-best 30-3 record and a No. 6 overall seed at the tournament. The Reivers continued their success in Salina, defeating Salt Lake Community College in the opening round to earn a spot in

the Elite 8 round. Three-time defending champion Trinity Valley Texas upended the Reivers in a thrilling double-overtime contest to advance.

REIVERS STAND STRONG WITH 5 ALL-AMERICANS

Iowa Western's fledgling wrestling program is gaining some attention on the national front following a solid showing at the 2015 NJCAA Championships. Coach Josh Watts in just his second season watched five Reivers earn medals and All-American honors in Des Moines. Leading the way was 149-pounder Oscar Ramirez, who finished runner-up and record three upsets to reach the finals. Other medalists: Clay Stine (133, 8th); Matt Walker (174, 3rd); Jhalen Flanders (184, 7th); Luke Nohs (197, 8th).


Preparations for the 2016 NJCAA Championships are already underway as Iowa Western will host the 2016, 2017 and 2018 events at the Mid-America Center.

REIVERS ADD TO TROPHY CASE AT INDOOR NATIONALS

Iowa Western track teams earned top 10 finishes at the 2015 NJCAA Indoor Championships in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

On the men's side, sophomore Andreas Sorensen finished first in the long jump with a mark of 7.68 meters. Teammate Ihab El Hajri also claimed a national title with a winning mark of 15.70 meters in the triple jump. Sophomore Strymar Livingston earned All-American status with a

second place finish in the 600 meter race with a time of 1:16.53, an IWCC school record and second-fastest event time in NJCAA history. The men's 4x400 meter relay of Joshua Willingham, Strymar Livingston, Travion Clark and Jamaree Murray also earned All-American status with their third-place finish (3:12.92), also setting a new school record in the event. Freshman Lens McKeown had an outstanding weekend, placing fourth in the pole vault and seventh in the heptathlon. The men's distance medley relay team of Sylvester Barus, Alex Holley, Strymar Livingston and Justin Thorstad placed seventh with a time of 10:29.62.

On the women's team, the 4x800 meter relay team of Taffoya Shirley, Sierra Hughes, Trishauna Reid and Sherene Whyte earned All-American status with their third-place finish and a time of 9:56.17. Yanique Bennett set a new school record with her fourth-place finish in the 600 meter race (1:34.33). The women's 4x400 meter relay of Jasmin Allen, Taffoya Shirley, Kianje Pollard and Yanique Bennett placed fourth with a time of 3:47.61, a new school record. Teammates Annette Gaskins and Allanah McCorkle placed fourth and fifth, respectively, in the long jump. Sophomore Sharnique Leonce had a very productive weekend as she competed throughout multiple events. Leonce set school records and finished fourth in the pentathlon and the 60 meter hurdles. She also finished eighth in the high jump. 



Greetings!

Spring is here and campus is buzzing with excitement. Warmer weather has finally arrived, construction of the new Engineering Technology Building is almost complete and graduation is just around the corner. While taking a quick walk around campus, I could just feel the energy. Spring is a great time to visit campus, but then again with so many exciting activities taking place, so are summer, fall and winter. I invite each of you to share the experience, get involved and reconnect with Iowa Western. Check out page 18 to see just a few of the upcoming opportunities for alumni and friends.

Another fun and easy way to stay involved is through the 2015 Omaha Gives! campaign. Iowa Western is participating in this 24-hour, community-wide day of giving May 20. Simply donate \$20 on May 20 and you can help a worthy student at Iowa Western. It's a great way to show your support, and donations benefit student scholarships. I hope each of you will take the time to make a pledge.

Participate, donate or both! It doesn't matter how, just get involved and join the fun and excitement taking place at Iowa Western. The college is growing and changing in so many ways, but one thing stays the same — the Reiver spirit is strong.

Enjoy this beautiful spring weather and stay connected. Go Reivers!

John Cool, '81
Alumni Board President



Above: a student celebrates after receiving her diploma at graduation; students visited senator Mike Gronstal in Des Moines for a day with the Legislators.

Alumni Board

John Cool (President), '81
Iowa School for the Deaf

Pam Beall-Hill (Vice President), '88
Community Volunteer

Joyce Bartels (Secretary/Treasurer), '86
First National Bank of Omaha

Stacy Shockey (Alumni Director), '98
Iowa Western Community College

Scott Belt, '77 & '82
Heartland Properties

Mark Brandenburg, '86
Iowa State Legislator

Dan Feller, '84
Owner, Varsity Freight

Brandon Green, '07
Iowa Western Community College

Brandon Juon, '00
Owner, Glory Days

Julia Kenealy, '07
CHI Health Mercy Hospital

Shawna Klindt, '01
Butterbaugh Insurance

Diane Osbahr, '90
Iowa Western Community College

Jill Schurman, '03
Community Volunteer



From left: the student orchestra performs at a fall concert; volunteers help the Iowa Western accounting department with a mass-mailing; a junior Reiver fan poses with a cheerleader at a football game.

Class Notes

1971

Greg Crozier is self-employed in Persia, Iowa.

Dan Chambers graduated from Bellevue University with a degree in Behavioral Science.

1972

David Cohrs is a deputy sheriff in Harrison County, Iowa, and also farms near Woodbine, Iowa.

1973

Jerry Stueve is a self-employed farmer in Logan, Iowa.

Marty Kerkhoff is a self-employed farmer in Manning, Iowa. Marty and his wife, Deb, have three children.

Jack Ploen is a farmer with JP Six Farms. Jack's first grandchild, Jackson Ploen, was born in 2014.

1974

Warren Worthmann is a self-employed farmer and has cattle in Treynor, Iowa.

Dale Pfannkuch is a rural mail carrier for the United States Postal Service.

1975

Mark Schnepel farms with his son and brother in the area of Carson, Iowa.

Jack Stamp is a self-employed farmer near Persia, Iowa.

Keith Hotze is a self-employed farmer near Macedonia, Iowa. Keith and his wife, Deb, have been married 36 years and have three sons.

1976

Craig Kelley is a farmer and crop adjuster near Woodbine, Iowa.

1978

Randy Blake is a self-employed farmer in Wiota, Iowa.

Clifford Carney is the county supervisor for Guthrie County, Iowa.

Mike Reed is a TeamMates volunteer for the Westside school system in Omaha.

1979

Chris (Nees) Blake met her husband, Randy, at Iowa Western in 1977 and married in 1979. They have three children and one grandchild. Chris is the chief business officer at CASS Incorporated.

1980

Keith Kane is a HVAC manager with International ALERT Academy. He and his wife, Carol, have seven children — four boys and three girls. Keith retired from Thermal Services in 2014.

1983

Tom Wegner is a machinist at United Tech Corp.

1986

Rod Larsen is employed with AgVantage Software. He assists farm cooperatives in set-up and training for ag computer systems.

1991

Donald (Christopher) Perdue is a self-employed farmer in Griswold, Iowa. He works on the family farm in a three-generation operation — row crop, cattle, hogs and sheep.

Shawn (Byron) Gorden is a self-employed farmer near Dow City, Iowa.

1997

Troy Safranek is employed with the Curster Roads Department in Merna, Neb.

1999

Zach Fahn is a self-employed farmer in Kimballton, Iowa. Zach and his wife, Tamie, have three children.

Dan Jensen is a self-employed farmer in Harlan, Iowa.

2004

Kyle Bumsted is partner/owner at Bumsted Farm Partnership.

Dustin Nelsen is an agricultural instructor at Iowa Western Community College.

2006

Ben Ausdemore is a self-employed farmer in Minden, Iowa.

2008

Sara Jensen is employed with Titan Machinery.

2009

Ned Callan is an agronomist at Ag Valley Coop.

2010

Stephanie (Schmidt) Hahne is a legal assistant at Brogan Gray. Stephanie and her husband, Nate, were married in July 2013.

2011

Ashley Hinrichs is a high school science teacher at New Rockford-Sheyenne Schools.

2014

Katie Teten is a marketing specialist with Bluffs Downtown.

Angela Ingram is pursuing her bachelor's degree in psychology from Creighton University.

Alexandria Walenz is a physical therapy technician for Methodist Physicians Clinic.

Arts Center Alumni Discounts

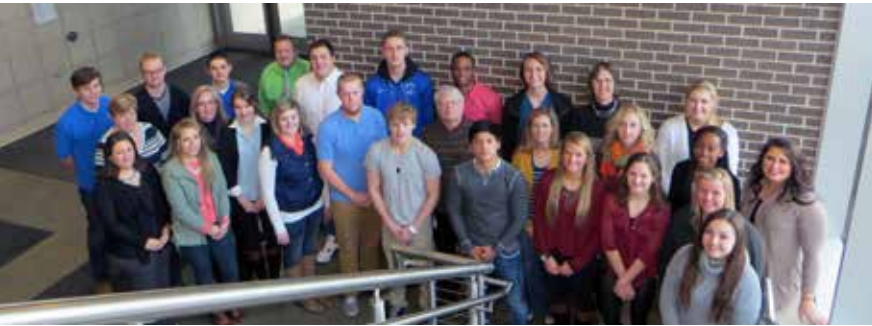
712-388-7140 • artscenter.iwcc.edu

The Arts Center at Iowa Western will be celebrating its 15th National Performance Series in 2014-15. It is hard to believe that the Arts Center has already been open 15 years. It is exciting to look back at the wonderful artists who have performed on the stage and it is even more exciting to look ahead to the future.

The 2015-16 season will be announced soon and will feature national touring acts, including a vocal jazz acapella group, theater, comedy, a big band, rock 'n roll, and a modern folk-bluegrass group. We will also bring back Ballet Nebraska's Nutcracker, which is fast becoming a regional family holiday tradition. It is sure to be a stellar season full of great entertainment and wonderful art.

If you haven't been to a performance at the Arts Center recently, this is the season to come back and join in the fun. To show our appreciation for previous Iowa Western students, the Arts Center is pleased to offer special discounted ticket prices for all alumni. Simply call the Arts Center box office, mention you are an Iowa Western alumnus, and join us for an evening of entertainment.





Scholarship Recipients

In March, student scholarship recipients attended an alumni board meeting on campus. The students had an opportunity to visit with alumni board members about their education and future plans.



Agriculture Alumni Reunion

More than 50 alumni attended the Feb. 27 Agriculture alumni event held in the Reiver Room of the Student Center. The event was one of the most successful alumni reunions to date.

Alumni *events*

The Iowa Western alumni office encourages alumni to come back and share in the Iowa Western spirit. Whether it's an athletic competition, a fine arts performance or an open house, there are plenty of opportunities to stay connected to Iowa Western and fellow alumni.

For example, in February, Agriculture alumni gathered on campus for an evening of camaraderie. Attendees shared stories, toured campus and received college updates from Iowa Western president Dr. Dan Kinney. The alumni were amazed to see first hand, the new facilities and growth of the program.

If you are interested in planning an alumni event, contact the alumni office at 712.325.3269. It is always great to have alumni back on campus!

To be included in future reunion mailings or to submit class notes, please send your updated information to alum@iwcc.edu.

Important Dates

Soccer Alumni Event Salt Lake City, Utah	May 24
Homecoming Parade Council Bluffs	Oct. 8
Athletics Hall of Fame Breakfast Homecoming Tailgate Football Game Council Bluffs	Oct. 10

The Port Connects Entrepreneurs and Students

www.BelTWISE.com • Facebook: *The Port at IWCC*

New to the Council Bluffs entrepreneurial scene is The Port, a campus entrepreneurial center at Iowa Western for students and the community that opened July 2014.

Uniquely connected to the Computer Information Technology Department at Iowa Western, members of The Port have access to state-of-the-art technology, a secure network, video conferencing, interns and the Small Business Development Center also on the campus. The Port offers the opportunity to connect entrepreneurs and small businesses with computer science and graphic communication students to give their startup a kick-start. Student interns skilled in networking, logo and marketing design, website development and help desk services, among other IT-related fields, are available to assist entrepreneurs and small businesses, sometimes at no cost.

"The Port is excited to be part of the Silicon Prairie atmosphere," said Jennifer Coffman, project coordinator at The Port. "While we are fairly new to the startup arena, the response from the entrepreneurial community has been more than welcoming. As we ourselves are a startup workspace and understand the challenges entrepreneurs face, we are eager to provide a collaborative environment of resources and support for entrepreneurs and students to be successful innovators."

Through hosted events such as Startup Grind Council Bluffs, The Port is dedicated to educating, inspiring and making connections in southwest Iowa for the next generation of entrepreneurs and information technology professionals.



2010



2012



2013



2014

Recipients to Date

2014	Tammi Kroll '96
2013	Scott Belt, '77 and '82
2012	Doug Goodman, '78
2011	Dave Petratis, '78
2010	Linda Lloyd, '73
2009	Gertrude & James ('91, '95) Woodworth
2008	Carolyn ('80) & John Cool ('81)
2007	Martha "Jane" Bell, '81
2006	Steve O'Neill ('76) and Matt O'Neill ('80)
2005	Jon Lieber, '90
2003	Patrick R. Hensley, '81
2002	Barb Roenfeld, '91
1998	Tan Nguyen, '91
1996	Edwin "Hersh" Rodasky, '71
1994	John D. Batt, '73
1993	Captain Larry Vorse, '79
1993	"Penny" Westfall, J.D. '73

In search of the next... Outstanding Alumnus

Nominations for the 2015 Iowa Western Outstanding Alumnus Award are being accepted by the Iowa Western Alumni Association.

The Outstanding Alumni Award is one of the college's highest honors. The candidate selected will be honored during homecoming weekend and have his or her photograph permanently displayed in Ashley Hall alongside past recipients. Selection is based upon outstanding achievement by an Iowa Western graduate in professional, academic or personal life, or in service to the college.

If you recognize these qualities in an Iowa Western alum, please consider nominating him or her for the award so they may be recognized by the college. Submit nominations to Stacy Shockey, Alumni Coordinator, via phone: 712.325.3269; email: alum@iwcc.edu; or mail: 2700 College Road, Council Bluffs, Iowa 51503.



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Iowa Western Alumni Association



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